



Christian Family Services of the Midwest, Inc.

Thank you for considering Christian Family Services of the Midwest, Inc. to assist you in completing your adoption! We are honored and excited to have the opportunity to assist you in making your adoption dreams a reality. We hope you will find that the caring and dedicated staff at Christian Family Services will be there to assist you through the entire adoption process. From those first steps of requesting information to your final post-adoption report, we are here for you.

Christian Family Services offers a variety of adoption options, including a full agency placement for qualified families, home study services for domestic and international adoption, post placement or post adoption services, and birthparent counseling. We are available to meet with you to help determine which avenue you want to pursue in your family building endeavor.

This guide provides an introduction of our adoption services. Please feel free to give us a call at 913-383-3337 for more specific answers or to set up an orientation meeting with the Director of Child Placement. We wish you all the best on your adoption journey and would consider it an honor and privilege to participate in some step in your family building journey.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact CFS

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Fax: 913-381-2547

Email: susan@cfskc.org

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Helping Children and Families Find a Better Life

Christian Family Services of the Midwest, Inc.

"Helping children and families find a better life."

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Mission and History

Christian Family Services of the Midwest, Inc. is licensed in Kansas and Missouri. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, family service organization governed and staffed by Christians who honor the sanctity of all human life. We exist to provide services to help people who struggle with personal crises and troubled relationships and to enhance the quality of family life. We have been serving the Kansas City metropolitan area since 1981. As a result of our services, people find solutions to their problems and direction for their lives. Young women experiencing unplanned pregnancies receive emotional support and help in making critical plans affecting their children and themselves. Children are placed in adoptive homes where they are loved and cherished. Individuals and families are strengthened through our counseling services. Christian Family Services is creating a world where every child is valued and families are strengthened.

What Families Are Saying About CFS

We encourage adoptive families to complete a Quality Improvement Evaluation of the agency following the completion of their adoption process. Here is what some of our families have had to say about us:

"They are very kind people. They are so fast and awesome!"

"Our experience was seamless!"

"Our social worker was so open, friendly, and accessible to answer our questions."

"We were very pleased!"

Overview of Adoption Services

Domestic Adoption:

Many questions probably come to mind when you consider building your family by adoption. While adoption has been around a long time, how it is practiced continues to evolve over time. We ultimately believe that God creates families and we are blessed to assist in that process. We are licensed in both Kansas and Missouri to place children into approved adoptive homes. In today's world of domestic adoption, it is usually the birthparents who select the adoptive parents. Prospective adoptive parents will create a photo booklet and profile to assist the birthparents in knowing something about the adoptive family. Open adoption is commonplace, and usually the families meet before the baby is born. Every situation is different, but an experienced staff member will be there with you every step of the way.

You may have questions you want answered before you know if you are ready to adopt. Feel free to contact us with those questions or you may want to schedule an orientation meeting if you have lots of questions or are ready to begin your adoption journey. We can't tell you exactly how your journey will go, but we will do our best to prepare you for the journey and advise you along the way.

Christian Family Services can assist qualified prospective adoptive families in completing a domestic adoption through our agency. We also are happy to offer a variety of adoption related services for those prospective adoptive families who are using other agencies or attorneys to complete the adoption.

International Adoption:

Christian Family Services does not complete international adoptions; rather, we assist families who are working with other international adoption service providers (ASP) for placement of a child. We can complete home studies and post adoption reports for families working with an ASP or "primary provider". We do not have placement programs from other countries.

Every family beginning an international adoption will first receive a home study orientation, given by the Director of Child Placement. We have significant experience in writing home studies, which are all Hague-compliant. We offer excellent home studies, completed by social workers who have significant experience in international adoption. Our knowledgeable social workers often provide helpful information about accessing local resources that are helpful to the international adoption process. We also offer assistance in completion of the process for obtaining approval from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Upon arrival home with a child, our social workers happily complete the required post-placement or post-adoption reports and send those reports to the appropriate parties. We also offer assistance and advice to families in need of a recognition of adoption or re-adoption hearing through their county family court, if necessary.

Embryo Adoption:

Embryo Adoption is a relatively new form of adoption. Gaining awareness and popularity in the early 2000's, it has since become a viable option for family building. When couples go through fertility treatments, such as IVF, there can be an excess of embryos that are frozen and stored. When the genetic parents feel their family is complete, they may face a dilemma as to what to do with the remaining embryos. There are three options: donating them to a couple for adoption, using them for research purposes, or destroying them. Embryo adoption was created to allow the genetic parents to give their embryos a chance for life while providing others with an opportunity to have the opportunity to experience pregnancy and adoption. We are able to provide home study services for couples interested in pursuing an embryo adoption through an embryo adoption placement agency.

Overview of Adoption Services



Home Study Assessment:

The home study process has often been portrayed as an intimidating process that pries into private areas of one's life including a "white glove" house cleaning test! This may have been part of the home study model of the mid-20th century, but thankfully we have broadened the spectrum to include what is most important (such as education) and eliminate what is not as important (a thorough examination of the organization of your closets!)

A home study is an assessment of the prospective adoptive family and their preparedness to adopt. A list of required documents for the home study is given to the family wanting to start a home study and includes such items as autobiographies, reference letters, background checks, medical reports, and financial documents. Generally, the family meets with their social worker four times, with at least one home visit. These meetings are comprised of the social worker sharing important information that future adoptive parents need to know, as well as obtaining required information from the family. Topics discussed are the background of the parents, marital stability, views on parenting, discipline practices, cultural maintenance (if applicable), family support networks, suitability of living conditions, and a thorough dose of realistic expectations.

Once the meetings are complete and all the documents are obtained, the written assessment, or home study, is completed. CFS families have the ability to view their home study before finalization to check for accuracy. This 10 to 18 page document is the property of the prospective adoptive family and will be used in many facets of the adoption. The process often takes many weeks, if not months, to complete and can be considered an integral part of the family's adoption journey. The home study will then be given to the adoptive family and other required parties such as the family attorney, adoption agency, USCIS, and/or the court where the adoption will be finalized.

We are aware that families may find the home study process intimidating or invasive. The questions asked and the home study process are not meant to be intrusive but are necessary to ensure the family is prepared and able to provide a safe, loving, and stable home for a child in need. Our role as the social worker is to work together with the prospective adoptive family to assist them in achieving their adoption dreams. We are often told that families enjoy the home study process and learn a lot through this experience.



Parent Training:

Christian Family Services is proud to offer a comprehensive educational program for all our adoptive families. The packet of educational requirements will be obtained during your orientation meeting. We know the educational experience will become a crucial step in the rewarding journey of adoption.

Am I Ready to Adopt?

Many families ask themselves this question. It is very common to have feelings of confusion and uncertainty as you look towards adoption to assist in your family building journey. Whether a seasoned parent or a first timer, adoption is a big decision that should be met with many internal questions. Here are some questions that we feel may help you judge your readiness for the adoption process. Please take a moment to think through the following questions that apply to your dreams for adoption (not every question will apply to your specific type of adoption). We want you to feel as prepared as possible for the joys and challenges of raising your child!



- Are we willing to become educated about adoption?
- Why do we want to adopt?
- How will our extended family and circle of friends feel about our adoption?
- How do we feel about not being genetically related to our child?
- Is it important that our children all look like us?
- Can we accept the reality that adopting a child of a different culture will mean our family becomes an interracial family?
- How can we support our child if he/she experiences prejudices or racial discrimination?
- How will our child(ren) feel about welcoming another sibling into the family?
- How do we see ourselves talking about adoption with the child?
- Are we prepared to maintain our child's positive identification with his/her culture of origin?
- What role will the child's birthparents have in the life of this child?
- Are we open to learning the details of the effects of institutional care to better understand developmental delays our child may experience?
- Are we comfortable with the notion that children who are products of institutional care are more at risk for developmental delays and future emotional issues?

Eligibility Requirements

CFS Domestic Agency Placement Program:

1. Applicants must be active members of a conservative Christian faith community (a reference letter from your minister or pastor will be requested)
2. Applicants must be a minimum of 23 years of age. The maximum age limit is somewhat flexible, but determined by the probability of being chosen by birthparents.
3. Applicants must be married a minimum of 2 years. If either applicant has been divorced, applicants must be married a minimum of 3 years. We believe the term “marriage” has one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as defined in Scripture. (Our full statement of beliefs is available upon request.)
4. Applicants must have steady employment and adequate income to support the family.
5. Applicants should be in good health.

International Adoption:

Each country has its own set of eligibility requirements for prospective adoptive parents. International adoption agencies may also have additional guidelines for families. We recommend that you first apply and be accepted to your international placement agency before beginning the home study process with CFS. We will then follow the eligibility requirements of your chosen country of adoption.

Reference Families

CFS Domestic Agency Adoptive Families:

Derek and Jessica Neufeld - derekvanneufeld@gmail.com
Jonny and Jenny Olson - ichasethesun3@gmail.com
Justin and Samantha Miller - sammasonmiller@gmail.com
Breck and Deborah Erickson - debandbreck@yahoo.com
Adam and Paula Hance – pauladawn1984@gmail.com

Domestic Home Study Families:

Chris and Kallee Robinson - kallee.ray1@gmail.com
Brandon and Melody Morse – melodyandbrandonmorse@gmail.com
John and Amy Drowns – preciouspanda1@yahoo.com
Ted and Alixandra Boersma – tedandalixandra.boersma@gmail.com

International Home Study Families:

Michael and Sara Jo Floyd (India) – bryartfarm@outlook.com
Carl and Jodi Dumler (DR) – csd4141@gmail.com
Kari and Beau Cox (Haiti) – kariandbeau@hotmail.com
Joe and Sarah Mrus (Philippines) – josephmrus@yahoo.com
Chad and Sarah Muehler (Haiti) – cdmuehler@msn.com
Mike and Susan McCorkendale (Taiwan) – suz.mccorkendale@gmail.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Why should I choose your agency?

A We are an ethical, not-for-profit adoption agency, licensed in both Kansas and Missouri. We have been serving birthparents and adoptive families for 40 years. We are well respected in the local adoption community. We serve many returning families for second, third or more adoptions. But you do not need to take our word for it...please connect with one of our reference families on the preceding page to hear more information about us from one of the families we have served.

Q How do I choose between completing a domestic or an international adoption?

A That is often a difficult decision for prospective adoptive parents. We have the unique ability of being able to share both sides of the adoption spectrum with you as we have significant experience with both domestic and international adoption. Our hope is that by the time you have met with a social worker or completed an orientation meeting, you will have sufficient information on both types of adoption to be able to make the right decision for your family. We often find that after significant research and obtaining much information, our families feel drawn to one type of adoption over the other and they cannot imagine their lives any other way!

Q Do I need to be a Christian to adopt through Christian Family Services?

A You do not need to be a Christian for us to complete a home study or assist with your adoption in some way. However, you do have to be an active Christian if you choose to complete a domestic agency adoption through CFS. For a CFS adoption, a pastoral reference letter is a requirement.

Q Is it true that a birthmother can change her mind at any time?

A Adoption laws vary from state to state, and it is best to consult an adoption attorney to talk about specific states adoption laws. However, the birthmother reserves her right to parent her child at any time until relinquishment, whether or not she has chosen an adoptive family yet.

Q Why is adoption so expensive? I just want to provide a loving home to a child in need!

A There are many components of an adoption and with every component comes a fee. There are many entities to work with you through your adoption process and everyone needs to be paid for their services. We are fortunate that the current Federal Adoption Tax Credit is \$15,950 and both Kansas and Missouri have their own State Tax Credits that families might be eligible for after the child is adopted. Please consult the IRS or your tax preparer for more information on adoption tax credits. There are also grants available.

Q Can you assist me in finding the right international adoption agency?

A Yes. Through our 40 plus years of adoption experience, we have worked with quite a few agencies nationwide and would be happy to provide you with information about specific agencies and programs if we have knowledge about that agency or program. We have agreements with a number of agencies nationwide and look forward to welcoming your international adoption agency questions.

CFS Agency Information, Practices & Disclosures



This information is provided for prospective adoptive parents to learn about and understand various aspects of CFS and its operating practices. This information is also presented to comply with Hague Convention Standards.

Policies and Procedures:

Relative to Hague Standard 96.39(a)

Clients may request to review CFS' Policies and Procedures that relate to the delivery of Hague international adoption. Copies of the current policies and procedures are available upon request.

Supervised Providers:

Relative to Hague Standard 96.39(a)2

Currently CFS does not work with any US-based or foreign supervised providers for Hague international adoptions as we do not have an international placement program.

Ethical Practice:

Relative to Hague Standard 96.35(a)

Christian Family Services of the Midwest, Inc., is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, family service organization governed and staffed by Christians who honor the sanctity of all human life. The focus of the agency is to enhance the quality of family life and to facilitate the placement of needy children with loving families. As a result of the adoption services provided by the agency, children are placed in adoptive homes where they are loved and cherished. This agency is committed to finding permanent homes for children, regardless of gender, age, ethnic or racial background, religion, or physical or mental disability. Christian Family Services strives to create a world where every child is valued, and families are strengthened. The agency strives to meet the needs of individuals and families in the States of Kansas and Missouri.

Christian Family Services of the Midwest, Inc. has a strict stance regarding the prohibition of child buying in adoption. All employees, agents, providers, and contract workers are prohibited from giving money or other consideration, directly or indirectly, to a child's parents, other individuals, or entity as payment for the child or as an inducement to release the child. If permitted and required by the child's country of origin, the agency may remit reasonable payments for activities related to the adoption proceedings, pre-birth and birth medical costs, the care of the child, the care of the birth mother while pregnant and immediately following birth of the child, or the provision of child welfare and child protection services generally. Permitted or required contributions shall not be remitted as payment for the child or as an inducement to release the child. Anyone found not in compliance with this policy will be eligible for immediate termination or termination of contract.

This agency complies with state and federal standards for ethical adoption practice. Annual reviews by the States of Kansas and Missouri are completed routinely without compliance violation or incident. This agency has remained in favorable standing with both states since licensure was obtained and continues to remain committed to ensure continuance. Furthermore, this agency complies with ethical principals outlined by USCIS. This agency has assisted families through international adoption for over 25 years.

CFS Agency Statistics

Relative to Hague Standard 96.39b

The following pertains to the past three (3) calendar years for
Christian Family Services of the Midwest, Inc.

**Number of Adoption Applications for CFS domestic agency placement
program:**

2023: 6 2022: 6 2021: 6

Number of Applications for Adoption Services (domestic or international):

2023: 18 2022: 18 2021: 16

Number of Agency Adoptive Placements (CFS only conducts domestic
adoption placements. International services involve another placing
agency as the primary provider):

2023: 3 2022: 2 2021: 1

Number of Dissolutions/Disruptions of Agency Placements:

2023: 0 2022: 0 2021: 0

All remain intact.



Number of children available:

CFS is a private adoption agency and as such placements in our domestic adoption program result from voluntary relinquishment of birthparent(s) parental rights. Due to the voluntary nature in which birthparents place children for adoption, an exact number of available children cannot be determined.

CFS does not have any international adoption placement programs. The number of children available in any given international country is determined by that country and their adoption entity. Statistics regarding the number of children who were adopted into the United States each year are available through the US Department of State at:

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/Intercountry-Adoption/adopt_ref/adoption-statistics.html



More Information

Thank you for reviewing our information. A second attachment will include our fee schedules and a sample adoption services agreement. Should you have any questions or would like to talk about various adoption options, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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